

What's New in the MPDC

SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

DISTRICT TO OBSERVE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

Calling it a “time for remembrance and a time for vigilance,” Chief Ramsey said the MPDC and the District of Columbia will observe the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th with a variety of ceremonies and activities.

Mayor Williams and the DC Council will remember and honor those lost on September 11, 2001, with a “Beam of Hope” light vigil at Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 13th and 14th Streets), beginning at 7:15 pm. Citizens are encouraged to bring their own “beam of hope,” such as a flashlight, penlight, glowstick, or candle. Ramsey said the MPDC will observe a moment of silence in facilities and over the radio (emergency call excepted) at 10:28 am on the 11th, the time when the north tower of the World Trade Center Collapsed, killing hundreds of police officer and firefighters. The Department will also have its Joint Operations Command Center activated on the 11th as a precautionary measure, although the Chief said DC has received no specific threat. In addition, the Mayor has proclaimed September 7-13 as Public Safety Appreciation Week in DC – an opportunity for citizens to express appreciation for the first responders who serve their neighborhoods by participating in events scheduled at firehouses or police stations or by volunteering to perform services such as planting flowers, painting a banner, or conducting a cleanup. Each police district is holding Appreciation Week events; contact your local district for details on activities in your community. To find the address and phone number of your police district station, go to:

For more information about the candlelight vigil and Public Safety Appreciation Week, visit the DC Government Web site at:

www.dc.gov/mayor/news/advisories.asp?mon=200209

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm

MPDC ANNOUNCES NEW LATINO LIAISON UNIT

With DC's Latino population continuing to grow and diversify, the MPDC this week announced an important step for enhance police services to Latino residents: the creation of a new Latino Liaison Unit. Staffed by a police sergeant, two detectives and six officers, the Latino Liaison Unit will provide Latino residents throughout DC with services such as crime prevention, community policing, criminal investigations and

victim assistance. All members of the unit are experienced MPD officers who are bilingual in English and Spanish. The Latino Liaison Unit is based in a storefront headquarters at 1800 Columbia Road, NW, in the SunTrust Bank Building in the heart of Adams Morgan. SunTrust Bank renovated and furnished the facility, and is providing it to the District at essentially no cost. However, the unit will serve Latino communities in neighborhoods throughout the District. For more information, contact: **Sgt. Juan Aguilar, (202) 673-4445** or read the news release at:

The Latino Liaison Unit is modeled after the MPDC's successful Asian Liaison Unit, located at 618 H Street, NW. For more information, call Sgt. Kenny Tempsuparisi at (202) 535-2653 or e-mail him at:

ktempsupa@mpdc.org

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC WELCOMES FIRST GROUP OF 20 OFFICERS HIRED FROM PUERTO RICO

Last spring, the MPDC traveled to Puerto Rico to recruit police officer candidates in an effort to increase Latino representation in the Department. On Sunday, September 8th, the first group of 20 officers hired under that recruiting drive begin their orientation and training with a day-long session at Providence Hospital. The 20 new members, all experienced officers from Puerto Rico hired under the MPDC's lateral-entry program, are receive an introduction to the District of Columbia, its diverse Latino communities, as well as information on housing options, schools and other matters that will help with their transition. The 20 lateral officers, all of whom are bilingual in English and Spanish, begin formal training the following day at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of the Police Science. They will continue to receive orientation and mentoring services during their first several months on the Department. Chief Ramsey said the MPDC hopes to have hired approximately 60 lateral officers from Puerto Rico by the end of October, with a total of 90 officers – both lateral and entry-level – from this first wave of the new recruitment drive. Read the news release at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

For more information about career opportunities in the MPDC, including the lateral-hire program for experienced officers, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm

THREE YEARS AFTER DEBUT OF RED-LIGHT CAMERAS, RED-LIGHT RUNNING DOWN 64 PERCENT IN DC

Get more information about DC's red-light camera program, including the locations of the 39 camera-equipped intersections, by clicking on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm

As the District of Columbia prepares to observe National Stop on Red Week, the MPDC reported this week that the number of drivers running red lights at intersections equipped with photo enforcement cameras has declined dramatically in the three years since the red-light camera program began. The MPDC began operating its first two red-light cameras in August 1999. Today, the District has 39 cameras operating at

high-hazard intersections located in all seven police districts. The number of violations caught on film at these 39 intersections has fallen from nearly 38,000 per month to fewer than 14,000 per month over the course of the program, a reduction of 64 percent. That translates into 24,000 fewer red-light running infractions per month. Citywide, the number of traffic fatalities involving red-light running declined from nine deaths in 1998 to two in 2001 and four so far this year. Access the news release at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

National Stop on Red Week, which runs from September 7-13, is organized by the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running. Learn more by going to:

www.stopredlightrunning.com

UPCOMING EVENT

Forfeited Vehicle Auction: The MPDC will auction approximately 15 forfeited vehicles at the Blue Plains Impoundment Lot, on Thursday, September 12. The lot will open at 8 am for vehicle inspection, with the auction beginning at 9 am. Terms of sale are cash, cashier's check or certified check only; all sales are final. For more information, call the MPDC's Evidence Control Department at (202) 645-0123.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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MPDC.DC.GOV